

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 SAM-01 IO-11 /083 W

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R 160849Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2026

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMLSSION USUN

USMISSION NAT

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 0376

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PLO TU US

SUBJ: TURKISH-PLO RELATIONS

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF JANUARY 15 MFA DIRECTOR
NEAR EAST AND AFRICAN AFFAIRS FARUK CELILOGLU OFFERED
THE OPINION THAT THE GOT PROBABLY WILL AGREE TO PERMIT
THE PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (PLO) TO OPEN
AN OFFICE IN ANKARA PRIOR TO THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE
SCHEDULED TO MEET IN ISTANBUL MAY 10. CELILOGLU SAID
A DECISION HAD NOT YET BEEN TAKEN BUT BARRING MAJOR
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FALLING-OUT WITH PLO BETWEEN NOW AND MAY, THE ACTION
WOULD PROBABLY BE TAKEN IN ORDER TO CREATE A POSITIVE

ATMOSPHERE FOR THE CONFERENCE.

2. COMMENT: MFA OFFICERS SUPPORTED ESTABLISHMENT OF PLO OFFICE DURING QADDOUMI VISIT IN AUGUST, 1975; PRIMIN DEMIREL'S ULTIMATE REFUSAL TO APPROVE PROPOSAL (APPARENTLY BASED ON PLO REFUSAL TO ADOPT A MORE PRO-TURKISH POSITION ON THE CYPRUS ISSUE) WAS A MAJOR SET-BACK FOR TURKISH PROPONENTS OF CLOSER GOT-PLO RELATIONS. PLO REACTION (AS PERCEIVED BY TURKS) WAS TO BECOME EVEN MORE OUTSPOKEN PARTISANS OF ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS AND THE GREEK CYPRIOT CAUSE. TURKISH SUPPORTERS OF PLO-TURKISH ASSOCIATION ARGUE THAT ALTHOUGH PLO NOT WILLING TO AGREE TO SHIFT ITS POSITION ON CYPRUS AS A PRECONDITION TO BETTER RELATIONS WITH TURKEY, IT MIGHT BE MORE RESPONSIVE TO TURKISH PRESSURES AFTER AN OFFICE IS OPENED. OTHERS ARE SKEPTICAL BUT CANNOT MUSTER A CONVINCING ARGUMENT AGAINST ALLOWING PLO TO OPEN OFFICE. TURKS, WHO ARE ACUTELY CONSCIOUS OF THEIR ISOLATED POSITION ON CYPRUS, SEEM TO BE BECOMING MORE AND MORE CONVINCED THAT THEIR POSITION OF MAINTAINING RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL AND OF NOT ALLOWING THE PLO TO OPEN AN OFFICE MAY BE AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT FACTOR IN THAT ISOLATION. THEY ARE NOT PREPARED TO END THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL BUT THEY DO SEEM PREPARED TO MEND THEIR FENCES WITH THE PALESTINIANS. A POLITICAL DECISION STILL MUST BE TAKEN, HOWEVER, AND PRIMIN DEMIREL HAS NOT YET COMMITTED HIMSELF. MACOMBER

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